



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEON VALLEY TREE ADVISORY BOARD**

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Meeting of the Leon Valley Tree Advisory Board (TAB) at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, in the Leon Valley City Hall, at 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas.

I. Poll for Attendance and Determination of a Quorum.

- Staff Liaison: Kristie Flores (Present)
- TAB Forester: Mark Kroeze, Regional Urban Texas Forester (Present)
- Members Present: Thomas Benavides, Melinda Dawson, Mary Key, Irene Baldrige, and Diana Sarfin and Rich Sarfin
- Members Absent: Denise Berger and Lyn Joseph
- Guest: Rhonda Wise, Forestry Student, Oregon State University

II. Approval of Minutes Not Required - November 19, 2013 (no Quorum/no meeting).

III. Update and Discussion on the Zoning Amendment which led to the creation of Stand-Alone Chapter 15, "Tree Preservation" and the Variance Process for Tree Variance Requests.

- The "Tree Preservation" section from Chapter 14 was removed and placed in new Chapter 15.
- An ordinance was passed to amend Chapter 15 to provide a variance process for political subdivisions bypassing normal channels.
 - TAB will send a letter to the City Manager noting that any tree variances submitted by political subdivisions should be passed on to City Council for review prior to final approval by the Manager.
 - TAB cited the El Verde Road Park/Drainage project (part of LC-17) as one example where the language added regarding political subdivisions may have a negative effect on tree mitigation thereby adversely affecting the city's tree canopy.

IV. Presentation by Rhoda Wise and Mark Kroeze regarding the 10% Tree Inventory Sampling Completed in December 2013.

- The Street Tree Inventory dated November 2013 and completed in December 2013 was provided to the TAB.
- Key points of the presentation are as follows:
 - Selection of streets was random.
 - Trees inventoried were those within 30 feet of the street curb.
 - 1,316 trees were counted.
 - A single species should not be represented by more than 10% in order to maintain long term health of the tree population.
 - Too many live oaks are planted (22%).
 - Oak and Ash trees make up 33%. An outbreak of Oak Wilt and/or the Emerald Ash Borer could devastate the tree canopy.
 - Leon Valley has a good tree canopy at this time.
 - The average tree saves about \$65.00 per year on energy costs.
 - The valuation of the trees inventoried was \$850,000

V. Discussion of TAB participation in 2014 Earthwise Living Day Activities - Saturday, March 1, 2014.

- TAB will have an information table.
- Kristie will check with CPS Energy for tree donation.

VI. Discussion of Potential Tree Planting Project in Raymond Rimkus Park.

- Kristie will check with a non-profit organization that is currently interested in planting trees at the park.



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VII. Update of Tree Adoption Count and/or Grant/Financial Information for Trees.

- 1,388 trees to-date have been adopted.
- In addition to tree adoptions, other opportunities to reach the 10,000 tree goal by 2020 include the following:
 - The new city monuments to be installed in the near future.
 - Castle Estates and Monte Robles where oak wilt is present.
 - Future park by city hall.
 - Neighborwoods program.
 - Trees purchased and planted by homeowners.
 - Will have to provide outreach to citizens so that these trees can be reported. We can use e-news, the city web page (TAB), and possibly the library.

VIII. Executive Session in Accordance with the Texas Government Code.

- Not required.

IX. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.
- The next meeting of the TAB is set for Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at 6:00 PM in the Leon Valley City Hall.


Chairperson